

**Summary of Catch Shares Briefing for Environmental Organizations  
July 23, 2009 (2-3:30pm)**

Monica Medina, Task Force Chairperson, thanked participants for attending and providing their input on catch shares. She reminded the participants that NOAA is developing a policy, not a regulation, and that catch shares will not be considered a “one-size-fits-all” solution for every fishery. NOAA thinks catch share programs are good tools worth consideration and any impediments to their consideration need to be remedied.

Ms. Medina summarized the work of the Catch Shares Task Force to date. She described the process by which participants were selected, and that the group is not a federal advisory committee – participants are providing their individual thoughts. The current briefings are a way for NOAA to gather information from interested parties as it moves forward. The policy, once issued, will be a draft/interim policy that will go into effect immediately, but will be open for public comment for a minimum of 90 days.

Ms. Medina then opened the meeting to questions:

-There was a question about how the catch shares policy will interface with the Limited Access Privilege Program (LAPP) guidance for the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). NOAA responded that the catch shares policy is focused at high level principles whereas the LAPP guidance is focused at a more technical level. They will both come out in the fall and will reinforce each other. Participants recommended that NOAA have very clear guidance for the councils on how to implement these programs and comply with the law.

-Several participants stated that the policy should have the councils focus on establishing performance and economic/environmental goals, and then look to all Fishery Management Plan choices that may achieve those goals. This includes the ability to satisfy the now required annual catch limits and accountability measures. To measure performance, every fishery should also have a scientifically-set Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and plans should ensure that TACs are being met.

-Fisheries such as recreational and for-hire boats have potential to make catch share programs complex. One participant suggested that NOAA should consider the for-hire fishery as a distinct group.

-A question arose about the cost estimates for potential catch share programs. Ms. Medina informed the group NOAA is working on securing more resources for catch share programs, and that successful programs will help to make the case for additional funding in the future. One participant cautioned NOAA not to shunt too many resources away from other high priority NMFS programs and statutory deadlines.

-Participants encouraged the consideration of cost recovery and resource rent both for the purpose of collecting financial resources for the programs, and because there needs to be a compelling argument why a public trust resource would be privatized.

-Some participants each pointed out that they are convinced that catch shares are not appropriate, at least in the short term, for international HMS fisheries.

-Several participants recommended that to make catch share programs effective, they need to: directly address concerns about consolidation; require sound science, good monitoring and enforcement; involve flexible options for councils to consider; and consider adaptive management strategies.

-Some groups are concerned about making catch shares a “de facto” tool, and requiring councils to defend cases where they are not using them; they worry that these requirements will encourage councils to implement catch share programs too quickly or otherwise invest time in activities that will interfere with meeting other MSA requirements. Ms. Medina stated that it is a challenge between not moving too fast and yet encouraging councils to get started as soon as possible.

-Participants pointed out that catch shares may not be ideal for some fisheries such as those with “...bad observer coverage, dirty gear types, known bycatch/discard issues or discard issues that cut across fisheries, councils and states.” NOAA is trying to develop criteria that councils can use to evaluate the potential of fisheries for catch share consideration.

-Some groups voiced the need to consider socioeconomic effects, and that the policy should support sustainable livelihoods and communities (MSA National Standard 8).

-After implementation, performance reviews are an essential part of catch share designs. Several participants strongly recommended that the agency require mandatory reviews to measure the success of catch share programs. This review process can also be a time to examine how capital is being made available and the effects of the program on the community.

-There were multiple comments that councils are currently overburdened and need assistance from the agency to move catch share consideration forward. Councils want more information about catch share and LAPP programs, and would benefit from cross-council information-sharing to learn from each region’s experiences in catch share programs.

-Ms. Medina stated that NOAA’s initial target was 90 days to review and comment on the draft/interim policy. The participants were thanked for their time and input and told that a similar briefing would probably be organized once the agency has a draft policy on paper. The briefing ended at 3:40pm.

## Participants –

### NOAA Representatives

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Monica	Medina	NOAA Special Advisor to the Under Secretary
Jim	Balsiger	NMFS Acting AA
Mark	Holliday	NMFS Policy Office
Jessica	Dutton	NMFS Policy Office
Rachel	O'Malley	NMFS Sustainable Fisheries
Sasha	Prybowoski	NOAA Communications

### In the Room

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Amanda	Leland	EDF
Diane	Regas	EDF
Michael	Hirshfield	Oceana
Carmen	Revenga	TNC
Dawn	Martin	SeaWeb
Anthony	Chatwin	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Vishwanie	Maharaj	WWF
Philip	Chou	Pew Environment Group
Gerald	Leape	Pew Environment Group
Kathryn	Semmens	Pew Environment Group
Lee	Crockett	Pew Environment Group
Scott	Burns	Walton Family Funds
Mike	Dunmyer	Ocean Champions
Patrick	Collins	Ocean Champions
John	Hocevar	Greenpeace
Ken	Stump	Marine Fish Conservation Network
Ellen	Bolen	Ocean Conservancy
Amy	Kenney	Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum
Marianne	Cufone	Food and Water Watch
Bill	Chandler	Marine Conservation Biology Institute

### On the Phone

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Ben	Bowman	Food & Water Watch
Roberta	Elias	WWF
Bill	Fox	World Wildlife Fund
Bob	Gill	Catch Shares Task Force
Barry	Gold	Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation
Eric	Olson	Catch Shares Task Force
Laura	Pagano	Natural Resources Defense Council
John	Pappalardo	NOAA
Astrid	Scholz	Ecotrust
Matthew	Wright	Compass